

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204512

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC, PFOR, ECON, SA

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC EXPERTS FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTRY
OF FINANCE

REFS: (A) JIDDA 2757, (B) JIDDA 5432, (C) TREASURY OSAA 646

1. AS YOU WILL HAVE NOTED IN REF C, THE TREASURY DEPT IS PREPARING TO SEND A TREASURY ECONOMIST TO RIYADH AS AN INITIAL STEP IN ASSISTING THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IN RECRUITING A STAFF OF ECONOMIC ANALYSTS, AS REQUESTED BY DEPFINMIN AL-TURKI. THE TREASURY EXPERT WILL DEFINE THE EXPERTISE REQUIRED BY MINFIN AND PRODUCE JOB DESCRIPTIONS WHICH WILL THEN ASSIST THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS, PROBABLY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY AN EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT AGENCY.

2. IT HAS OCCURRED TO US THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO OFFER TREASURY ECONOMIST TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER AND SIMILAR REQUEST FROM DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ALIREZA REPORTED REF A. DEFINING NEEDS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD BE A FIRST
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STEP IN MINISTRY'S ATTEMPTS TO RECRUIT QUALIFIED STAFF.

3. TREASURY ECONOMIST IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE RIYADH END OF AUGUST AND REMAIN ONE TO TWO WEEKS. COST OF RIYADH PORTION

WILL BE FUNDED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE THROUGH JEC.

3. TREASURY HAS NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IDEA OF ALSO OFFERING ECONOMIST TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND IS FEARFUL THAT THERE MAY BE RIVALRIES BETWEEN TWO MINISTRIES, WHICH WE AND DCM HORAN DO NOT LEND CREDENCE TO. TREASURY ALSO FEARFUL THAT PRINCE SAUD COULD PRE-EMPT RESULTS OF SURVEY AND ASK THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY GET FIRST CHOICE OF EXPERTS RECRUITED FOR EMPLOYMENT. THERE IS ALSO REMOTE RISK THAT IF TREASURY EXPERT IS OFFERED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, IT MIGHT BE USED AS OPPORTUNITY TO REOPEN TREASURY ATTACHE QUESTION AGAIN.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PRESS TREASURY TO OFFER TO INCLUDE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THIS SURVEY. KISSINGER

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